Increasing demands on the province's forest landbase concern many British Columbians, who want not only a stable flow of timber to provide economic stability, but also adequate wildlife habitat, high visual quality in travel corridors and at recreation sites, and safe, reliable sources of domestic water. Forest management in British Columbia therefore requires a strategic balance of planning and practices to protect the environment, ensure sustainable levels of resource extraction, and build community economic and social stability.

In working towards achieving a balance in resource management objectives, the Enhanced Forest Management Pilot Project (EFMPP) was launched in September 1995. This initiative followed the recommendations made by a multi-sector task force of the Forest Sector Strategy Committee. The task force had identified several "criteria for success," which were used to establish pilot areas for demonstrating the potential of enhanced forest management strategies. The overall aim of the EFMPP is to reduce downward pressure on timber supply while reflecting changing public expectations about forest practices.

EFMPP

FOREST RENEWAL BC

M121

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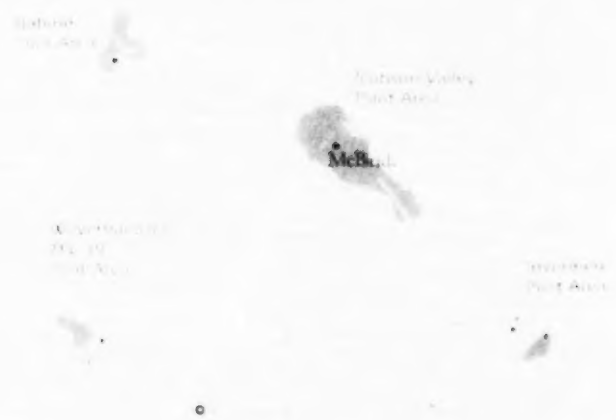
EFMPP Goals and Objectives

The goal of the EFMPP is to optimize the potential productivity of the available forest landbase within the constraints required by existing land use plans and the Forest Practices Code. This is to be done by:

- empowering local forest managers to develop a dynamic forest management strategy with emphasis on increased timber production in suitably zoned areas;
- exploring the biological effectiveness and economic efficiency of employing enhanced forest management in selected forests; and
- transferring knowledge and technology to resource managers, researchers, professionals and forest workers.

The pilots also have specific objectives that stem from the general ones listed above.

The final product of each pilot will be a management strategies report that recommends changes to policy, procedures and legislation based on analysis of the project's technical findings and the interpretations of the project's working group for improving forest management.



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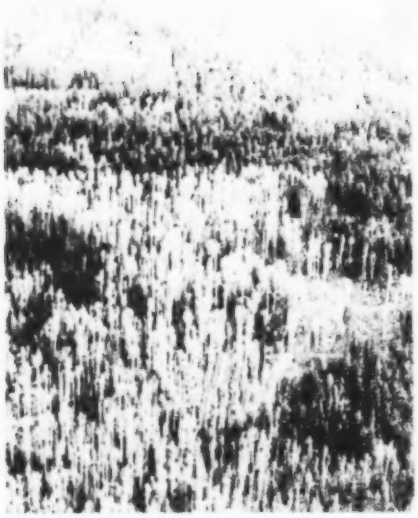
Products

Pilot Objectives

Key Activities



Ecological Characteristics Associated with Mature and Old Stands

Old-growth forests provide essential elements to the forested landscape. These include advanced stand age, large logs and snags, understory regeneration, special trees, minimum tree densities > 50 cm dbh, and minimum levels of lichen abundance. Other attributes may also indicate the presence of wildlife trees, abundance of specific arboreal lichens, and presence or absence of understory vegetation.

This activity examined the functional and structural attributes that define an old-growth stand. Maintaining a minimum level of old forests in a designated landscape often produces constraints to timber harvesting. This activity therefore tested whether there are any functional differences in old forest characteristics between stands in age class 8 (140 – 250 years old) and age class 9 (> 250 years old) so that constraints created by the need for including age class 8 as old growth might be relieved.

What the activity found was that the age class indicated on the forest cover map is often incorrect, and the problem is different for different forest types. Generally, stands in the ESSFwk2 were younger than shown as mapped, whereas stands in the ICHwk3 were older than indicated on the forest cover map.

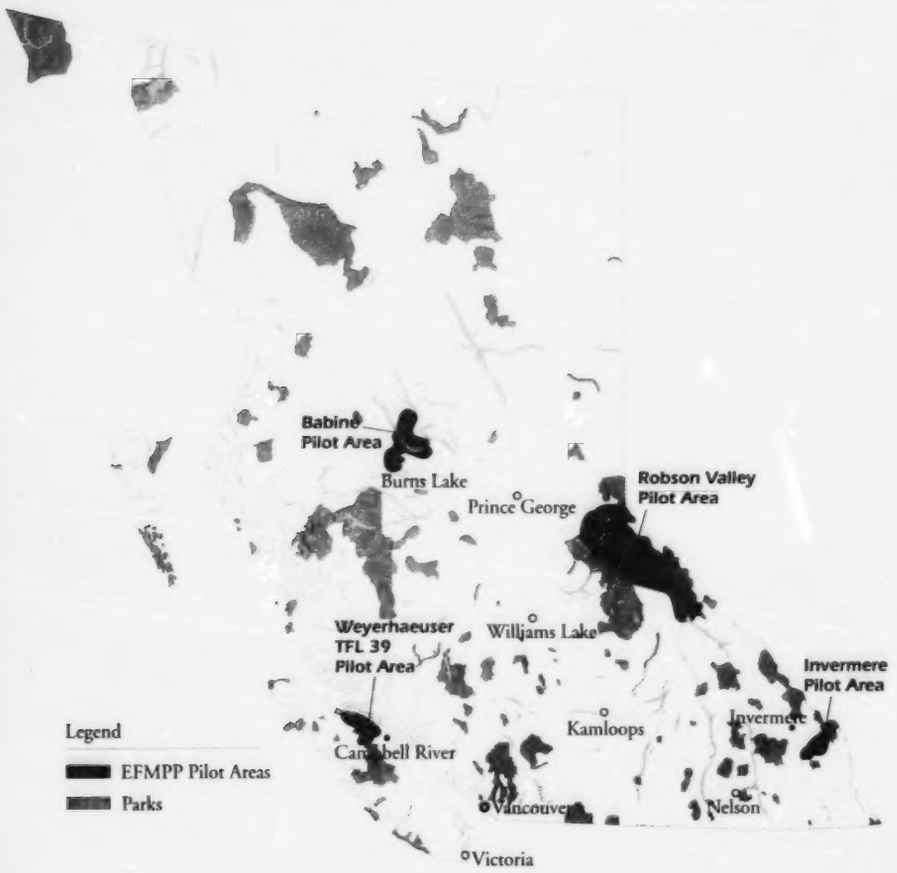
In the ICHwk3, the activity's stand sampling showed a clear relationship between the height of gold dust lichen and the total number of calicioid arboreal lichen species, which are only found in ICH old-growth forests. The total number of species and the number of unique species increased with the height on the trees of gold dust lichen, which appears to be a particularly good attribute for providing a quick assessment of the relative merits of a stand for its old-growth attributes. Therefore, measuring the mean height of this lichen within a stand could be used as a rapid screening tool for minimizing the number of stands needing more detailed measurements.

1999/2000 Annual Update

This annual update provides highlights of EFMPP activities and progress to March 2000.

The EFMPP is a cooperative effort between industry, the Ministry of Forests, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Forest Renewal BC, labour and the academic community. The provincial steering committee leads and monitors the EFMPP by providing support and assistance to the four pilot projects, each of which covers a range of ecosystems and resource values.

A locally-based working group directs each project to test the value of the different pilot activities for broader operational application and, with the help of the steering committee, develops and implements the local forest management strategy. Key to the ultimate success of the EFMPP initiative is communication both with the public and with the practitioners who will apply the pilot project findings throughout British Columbia.



The newest pilot began in March 1999 and is managed by the Ministry of Forests in the Robson Valley Forest District, which is based in McBride. The EFMPP study area covers the entire district and lies largely in the Rocky Mountain Trench. With one national and several provincial parks adjacent to or near the EFMPP, recreational values are subsequently high. The EFMPP includes the SBS, Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH) and ESSF biogeoclimatic zones, with alpine tundra above the treeline.

A community advisory group provides public input to the EFMPP direction and to the design of its activities.

Pilot Objectives

The Robson Valley EFMPP is addressing:

- landscape-level biodiversity management and conservation; and
- integration of a sustainable and diversified supply of all forest resources across the Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) resource management zones.

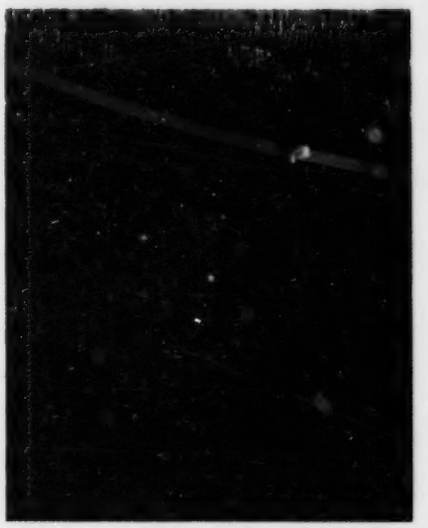
Key Activities

Activities are grouped into three main project categories:

- Biodiversity Conservation Design Projects: These include a caribou population inventory, a study of the ecological characteristics associated with mature and old stands (see sidebar), strategic and scenario planning for the Goat Landscape Unit (a major class project at the University of Northern British Columbia), and an analysis of social, economic and environmental values within the Robson Valley.
- Stand Rehabilitation and Enhanced Productivity Projects: These include humus classification, a comparison of partial cut and clearcut systems in the ICH and ESSF to determine their operational feasibility, and identification of silviculture options that address natural disturbance processes and hemlock looper in the ICH.
- Multiple Resource Design: This involves information gathering to facilitate better scenario planning, including recreation trail location confirmation using GPS, assessment of basic visual requirements for each trail, and trail maintenance requirements.

Products

- Establishment of the community advisory group, whose members have held one meeting and attended a workshop on scenario planning.
- Sponsoring of a workshop for practitioners, held in March 2000 (presentations are posted on the Robson Valley EFMPP website and available in hard copy from the Ministry of Forests).
- Completion of the Multiple Resource Design, and production of a recreation trail binder with maps of 25 trails, showing their potential viewpoints and maintenance requirements.



This area within the wet ICH in the Crescent Spur Landscape Unit has been devastated by the Western Hemlock Looper. The window of opportunity to salvage harvest these areas is quickly coming to an end, leaving forest managers with the challenge of developing ways to enhance forest productivity.

Comparative Analysis of Ecosystem Mapping Methods

Accurate and cost-effective ecosystem mapping is required for ecosystem-based forest management. This activity investigated the suitability of three ecosystem mapping approaches for application on the Babine EFMPP landbase and beyond.

Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) is the conventional, but most labour-intensive, ecosystem mapping method used in British Columbia. Consequently, the suitability of Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM) methods for the Babine EFMPP were tested as alternatives. This activity compared TEM with two other methods--VEC (Virtual Ecosystems) and ELDAR (Ecological Land Data Acquisition Resource)—when applied to two mapsheets. Independent ground-collected and photo-based reference data were used and standard protocols for testing and comparison were developed.

The comparative analysis provided information on the characteristics and accuracy of each of the three ecosystem methods. Although all methods are based on the standard three-level ecosystem classification hierarchy for British Columbia (ecoregion unit, biogeoclimatic unit and site unit), each approach generated polygon lines differently and produced varying types of map labels.

Overall, TEM was found to be better at identifying the entire range of ecosystems, from dry to wet sites and from forested to non-forested. TEM was also more likely to predict the correct site series correctly. However, the accuracy of VEC and ELDAR improved when close or acceptable site series were considered.

Recommendations for applying the activity's results were made, and included identification of areas of the province considered most suitable for PEM, based on criteria such as inventory data quality and landscape characteristics. Minimum standards for PEM at 1:20,000 scale were also developed in this activity.

Pilot Objectives

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Key Activities

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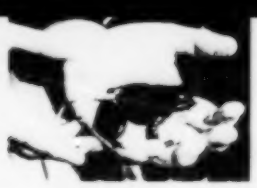

Key Activities

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Pilot Objectives

Spatial Silviculture Investment Plan

The Spatial Silviculture Investment Plan produced a three-part strategy that includes:

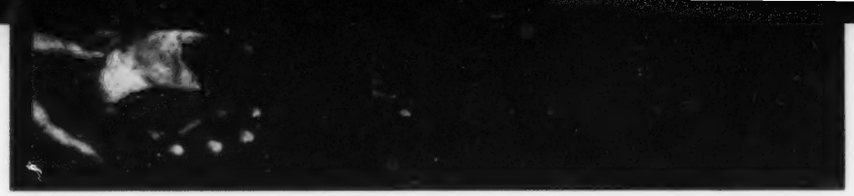
- a new spatial modelling tool incorporating variable retention and stewardship zones;
- an aspatial analysis comparing timber supply from clearcutting and variable retention without consideration for spatial requirements; and
- a spatial analysis that examines the spatially based constraints and their impacts on timber supply.

The new spatial modelling tool incorporates block size, adjacency and green-up requirements, and focuses on mitigating the impacts of spatial regulatory constraints on available timber supply. Timber supply "pinch points" that create future anticipated supply shortfalls were spatially analyzed in the Adam and Eve watershed landscape units, as were gaps in finding the assigned harvest (AAC) on the landscape.

An aspatial timber supply analysis used the Woodstock model to compare the clearcut and variable retention target timber harvest flows. The results of the aspatial and spatial comparisons indicated that, under a volume maximization objective, variable retention provided about 13% less harvest volume and a lower Net Present Value (NPV) than occurred in the clearcut schedule. However, under a harvest value maximization objective, variable retention provided a slightly higher NPV.

The spatial analysis found that block size, adjacency and green-up are significantly constraining – creating a potential timber supply gap as high as 500,000 m3/year over the next 20 years. The spatial harvest schedules resulting from this strategic timber supply analysis are now being tested for spatial habitat supply. The projections will form one element of the adaptive management framework.

Adaptive Management *is "learning by doing." It is a systematic and rigorous approach for long-term actions, improving management practices and accommodating change. Adaptive management works at the ecosystem level on a large scale and over the long term.*



Babine Forest Products, based in Burns Lake, initiated the third EFMPP in July, 1997. This pilot project is located in the north-central Interior of British Columbia within the Lakes Timber Supply Area and corresponds to the operating areas of Babine and Decker Lake Forest Products. The Babine project includes two variants in the Sub-Boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic subzones (SBSdk and SBSmc2) and one in the Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir zone. The landbase has a generally rolling topography characterized by numerous lakes and wetlands, with approximately 60% of the forests dominated by lodgepole pine.

Pilot Objectives

The primary Babine EFMPP objectives are to:

- increase site productivity by doubling the current mean annual increment;
- maintain or increase timber supply; and
- test new and innovative forest management practices.

The secondary objectives are to:

- create employment and training opportunities;
- practise enhanced forest resource stewardship;
- strengthen and build community partnerships; and
- share and transfer information.

Key Activities

The Babine working group is currently testing the value of the different pilot activities for broader operational application. As well, the group is guiding the development of a local forest management strategy. Three task groups steer the 13 activities of the Babine pilot:

- Activities in the Decision Support task group include data management and decision support and analysis.
- In the Inventory and Growth & Yield task group, a comprehensive growth and yield activity is under way, with components on SIBEC (Site Index/ Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification), Operational Adjustment Factor (OAF1) readjustment, early stand height growth, and validation of the Mixedwood Growth Model. A comparative analysis of ecosystem mapping methods (see sidebar), an enhanced Vegetation Resources Inventory, and examination of problem forest types are the other activities of this group.
- The third group, Forest Management task group, is working on intensive silviculture opportunities, improved harvest utilization standards, operational trials with improved seedlings, alternative harvesting and silviculture systems, road and landing rehabilitation, optimum density standards, and a retrospective study on juvenile spacing yield outcomes.

Products

- A final report (March 2000) on each of the following topics: Optimum Density (1998/99), TEM/PEM comparative analysis, intensive silviculture opportunities, improved utilization standards, the retrospective study, OAF1 and early stand height growth (all available on the Babine EFMPP website).
- Interim reports and technical plans for nine ongoing activities (available on the Babine EFMPP website).
- Three printed publications: a pilot overview, an activities overview, and an activity summary for improved utilization standards.
- Two workshops (April 1999 and 2000) for sharing results and discussing activity progress.

Caterpillar D7 Equipped with de-compaction equipment used for rehabilitating highly compacted soils on roads and landings.

This pilot project is managed by Weyerhaeuser, BC Coastal Group (formerly MacMillan Bloedel), and covers Block 2 of TFL 39 on north central Vancouver Island. The pilot began in April 1996 and is located in the Adam and Eve watersheds, where over 400 cm of precipitation falls annually—80% in the fall and winter. Biogeoclimatic units include two variants of the Coastal Western Hemlock subzone (CWHvm1 and CWHvm2) and one in the Mountain Hemlock subzone (MHmm1).

The TFL 39 pilot is exploring and testing ways in which past forest management practices, based on social values of the time, might be changed so that desired future forest conditions can be achieved. Important to this is ensuring that the transition imposes minimal impact on local communities and the provincial economy. The pilot activities are based on differences between spatial and aspatial analyses. "Spatial" refers to the geographic relationship among stands on the forest landbase. Operationally, spatial constraints often restrict the achievement of the AAC for a given area because the AAC is assigned based on "aspatial" (non-spatial) analysis. For the AAC determination, spatial considerations are only approximated, which is adequate when they are limited or distributed over large areas at the strategic level. However, as the forest landbase decreases and spatial constraints increase at the Forest Development Plan stage, it becomes more difficult to find the AAC on the ground.

Early work (Phase 1) focused on clear-cutting-based silvicultural systems. The change to a variable retention approach, announced in June 1998 through the Forest Project, made it necessary to adapt the pilot activities to this fundamental change. This is the focus of Phase 2.

Pilot Objectives

The Phase 1 objective was to develop a spatial silviculture investment plan to mitigate the spatial constraints imposed by block size, adjacency and green-up requirements set by the Forest Practices Code. The Phase 2 objective has been to evaluate the implementation of retention systems and develop an adaptive management program to focus on key ecological and silvicultural uncertainties.

Key Activities

Weyerhaeuser EFMPP activities currently involve:

- completing the spatial and aspatial comparative analysis of implementing a variable retention approach, to determine what reduction in available timber supply occurs from spatial constraints;
- constructing an adaptive management framework, which includes key questions relevant to variable retention, important monitoring elements for practitioners, and a mechanism for initiating management action linked to the monitoring; and
- evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of these activities and the products listed below in terms of how well they meet the objectives of the Forest Project.

Products

- A spatial silvicultural investment analysis (part of Phase 1) with a decision framework and a spatial investment plan (see sidebar). The riparian restoration portion of the plan was successfully implemented as part of Weyerhaeuser's Forest Renewal BC silviculture investments.
- A spatial analytical tool, with modifications for variable retention and stewardship zoning.
- Methods for monitoring forest structure, to provide a baseline comparison of how well variable retention patches possess key old-growth attributes.
- Methods for assessing the abundance and diversity of birds, gastropods (slugs and snails) and bryophytes (mosses and liverworts).
- Several unpublished technical reports on monitoring (available on request from Weyerhaeuser).
- An EFMPP habitat supply modelling workshop, held in March 2000, that brought together technical specialists to share information on progress in developing and applying models on habitat supply.

The Invermere EFMPP began in March 1996 as the first pilot. Managed by the Ministry of Forests, it covers the White-Lussier drainage, which forms about 20% of the Invermere Forest District and supports a wide variety of resource activities. The pilot project area encompasses a diversity of ecosystems, from low-elevation native grasslands in the Interior Douglas-Fir biogeoclimatic zone to high-elevation bare rock and tundra. Three major wildfires burned some of the area in 1985. A public advisory group has guided the pilot project by providing input to activity proposals.

The main goal of the Invermere EFMPP is to develop enhanced forest management strategies at the forest level. Such strategies will be used to re-examine the timing, location and intensity of management practices and the application of various harvesting systems, and to better focus relevant forest inventory and research.

Pilot Objectives

The objectives of this pilot generally follow those of the overall EFMPP (listed on page 2) and accommodate the land use objectives and, in addition, zoning of the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan.

Key Activities

The current key activity is the implementation of components of the management strategies report and completion of outstanding research.

Products

- Management Strategies Report, November 1998, submitted to the Ministry of Forests executive.
- Eleven technical summaries and two technical workshops that extend activity findings.
- More than 30 presentations and workshops on various activity results by pilot participants.
- Computer technology development for application throughout British Columbia, including Geographic Information System (GIS) processing of FSSIM, development of a method to represent FSSIM harvest flows spatially, interaction of Woodstock applied against FSSIM-generated harvest flows, and development of an archaeological site predictive model.
- A comprehensive strategy for restoring fire-maintained ecosystems (see sidebar).
- A process for preparing a silviculture strategic plan using the Woodstock model.

Forest Resource Management Models Used in the Invermere EFMPP

FSSIM is a sequential forest inventory projection model used to forecast timber supply. It serves as an accounting system that calculates the amount of available timber for a given landbase. Recent versions of FSSIM now have the capability through GIS to track harvest blocks. The results can be analyzed (using SIMFOR, described below) for their effects on habitat supply for species with particular habitat needs.

SIMFOR is a strategic decision support tool that analyzes the consequences of forest harvesting scenarios on habitat supply.

Woodstock is a forest modelling system that is used for a wide variety of analyses, including harvest scheduling and wood supply analysis, multiple management and evaluation of forest resources. The flexible system allows models using both deterministic and linear programming formulations, then runs the models using the appropriate software. The Lost Lake Model for the Invermere EFMPP is a linear programming model that maximizes the harvest flow subject to various constraints and predetermined timber supply estimates from FSSIM.

Products *(continued)*

- A method to measure empirically the environmental impacts of harvesting on wildlife habitat at the strategic and landscape levels, using the SIMFOR model.
- Operational research trials on:
  - developing partial cutting prescriptions that maintain old-growth stand structure attributes, analyzing economic implications and initiating growth and yield studies;
  - achieving long-term soil productivity and skid trail rehabilitation;
  - modifying harvest planning and practices to minimize impacts on songbirds;
  - adopting a fire-ecology-based approach to biodiversity management;
  - refining methods to treat Armillaria root disease; and
  - developing an understanding of Northern Goshawk habitat needs and preferences.

Dave Crampton, consulting silviculturist (left), Russ Hendry, timber supply analyst (middle) and Chris Steeger, consulting biologist (right), discuss partial cutting guidelines and prescription development to preserve old-growth and biodiversity attributes of the stand.

Activity	1996/97 Expenditure	1997/98 Expenditure	1998/99 Expenditure	1999/00 Expenditure	Total to end of 1999/00	2000/01 Allocation
[illegible]						
Technical Advisory Committee	$10,593	$15,727	$5,005	$2,630	$31,955	$5,000
[illegible]						
Weyerhaeuser TFL 39 EFMPP	$112,902	$142,383	$207,255	$112,000	$574,540	$570,000[3]
[illegible]						
Robson Valley EFMPP	N/A	N/A	$7,720	$63,590	$71,310	$100,000
Total	$532,655	$872,869	$2,730,567	$1,601,325	$5,737,416	$2,254,000

[1] Funding for Steering Committee administration, provincial communications, and PricewaterhouseCoopers review

[2] Funding for Steering Committee administration, provincial communications, and Westland video

[3] Does not include funding from licensee Multi-year Agreement (MYA) contributing towards EFMPP goals

[4] Babine is now part of the Lakes/Morice Innovative Forest Practices Agreement (IFPA) but will remain active in the EFMPP until the Forestry Plan for the IFPA is completed in March of 2001

Restoration of Fire-Maintained Ecosystems in the Rocky Mountain Trench

In the Invermere EFMPP, severely ingrown forest stands occur in the NDT4 ecosystem—a Natural Disturbance Type characterized by frequent stand-maintaining fires. Fire suppression in the area over the last 70 years has exacerbated the problem of conifer encroachment. The result: every year, an estimated 3,000 ha of the Rocky Mountain Trench is converted from native grassland and open forest to a closed forest condition.

To reverse this trend, work on developing a prototype ecosystem restoration plan for a range unit in the EFMPP was completed in 1996. The plan delineated zones for particular ecosystem components. For each zone, the plan has proven to be operationally feasible, as well as effective in offsetting timber supply impacts. It has also facilitated implementation of the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan guidelines.

After the plan was tested on the ground in 1997, the same planning approach was successfully applied to the remaining NDT4 areas in the EFMPP. In 1998, the EFMPP ecosystem restoration strategy was further extended to all remaining NDT4 areas in the entire Rocky Mountain Trench, an area encompassing about 250,000 ha.

The need for immediate action has been identified and widely endorsed. If the vision is realized, 135,000 ha of the Rocky Mountain Trench will be characterized as a "restored ecosystem" by the year 2030. This plan has multi-agency support and demonstrates the value of the EFMPP to address important locally based resource management challenges.

INVERMERE EFMPP

www.for.gov.bc.ca/nelson/district/invermer/Pilot/index.htm

The Invermere EFMPP began in March 1996 as the first pilot. Managed by the Ministry of Forests, it covers the White-Lussier drainage, which forms about 20% of the Invermere Forest District and supports a wide variety of resource activities. The pilot project area encompasses a diversity of ecosystems, from low-elevation native grasslands in the Interior Douglas-Fir biogeoclimatic zone to high-elevation bare rock and tundra. Three major wildfires burned some of the area in 1985. A public advisory group has guided the pilot project by providing input to activity proposals.

The main goal of the Invermere EFMPP is to develop enhanced forest management strategies at the forest level. Such strategies will be used to re-examine the timing, location and intensity of management practices and the application of various harvesting systems, and to better focus relevant forest inventory and research.

Pilot Objectives

The objectives of this pilot generally follow those of the overall EFMPP (listed on page 2) and accommodate the land use objectives and, in addition, zoning of the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan.

Key Activities

The current key activity is the implementation of components of the management strategies report and completion of outstanding research.

Products

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- A comprehensive strategy for restoring fire-maintained ecosystems (see sidebar).
- A process for preparing a silviculture strategic plan using the Woodstock model.

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SIMFOR *is a strategic decision support tool that analyzes the consequences of forest harvesting scenarios on habitat supply.*

Woodstock *is a forest modelling system that is used for a wide variety of analyses, including harvest scheduling and wood supply analysis, wildlife management, and simulation of forest ecosystems. This flexible system creates models using both simulation and linear programming formulations, then runs the models using the analytical techniques that best suit the situation. For the Invermere EFMPP, Woodstock was used to define the relationship between expenditures on silviculture activities and pre-determined timber supply schedules from FSSIM.*

INVERMERE EFMPP

www.for.gov.bc.ca/nelson/district/invermer/Pilot/index.htm

Products (continued)

- A method to measure empirically the environmental impacts of harvesting on wildlife habitat at the strategic and landscape levels, using the SIMFOR model.
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Dave Crampton, consulting silviculturist (left), Rhys Hendry, timber supply analyst (middle) and Chris Steeger, consulting biologist (right), discuss partial cutting guidelines and prescription development to preserve old-growth and biodiversity attributes of the stand.

EFMPP EXPENDITURES SUMMARY AND ALLOCATION REPORT

Activity	1996/97 Expenditure	1997/98 Expenditure	1998/99 Expenditure	1999/00 Expenditure	Total to end of 1999/00	2000/01 Allocation
Steering Committee	$12,000	$24,486	$4,256	$78,300[1]	$123,042	$94,000[2]
Technical Advisory Committee	$10,593	$15, 727	$3,005	$2,630	$31,955	$5,000
Invermere EFMPP	$397,160	$275,273	$438,000	$343,005	$1,453,438	$235,000
Weyerhaeuser TFL 39 EFMPP	$112,902	$142,383	$207,255	$112,000	$574,540	$570,000[3]
Babine EFMPP	N/A	$411,000	$2,070,331	$1,000,000	$3,481,331	$750,000[3,4]
Robson Valley EFMPP	N/A	N/A	$7,720	$65,390	$73,110	$600,000
Total	$532,655	$872,869	$2,730,567	$1,601,325	$5,737,416	$2,254,000

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1999/2000
Annual Update

Robson Valley
Forest District

EFMPP
Babine

An example of the variable retention approach to forest management being implemented in Block 2 of TFL 39

Enhanced Forest Management Pilot Project

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Invermere
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